

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 158445

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE RE SLEPAK AND NUDEL

REF: MOSCOW 14317

1. FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE RE SLEPAK AND
NUDEL CASES WHICH WAS POSTED AFTERNOON OF JUNE 21 IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTION POSED AT NOON BRIEFING:

2. "QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT REACTION TO
THE TRIAL OF JEWISH ACTIVISTS VLADIMIR SLEPAK AND IDA
NUDEL, AND TO THE SENTENCES IMPOSED ON THEM?

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3. "ANSWER: THE EFFORTS OF VLADIMIR SLEPAK AND HIS
FAMILY, AND OF IDA NUDEL, TO EMIGRATE FROM THE SOVIET UNION
HAVE LONG BEEN OF CONCERN TO US. WE HAVE RAISED THE SLEPAK
CASE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.
WE HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES OUR CON-
CERN FOR IDA NUDEL. WE REGRET THE DECISION OF THE SOVIET

GOVERNMENT TO PUT SLEPAK AND NUDEL ON TRIAL FOR OPENLY EXPRESSING THEIR DESIRE TO EMIGRATE. THESE DECISIONS AND THE SENTENCE IMPOSED ON THEM SEEM TO US UNDULY HARSH AND CLEARLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, SIGNED BY THE SOVIET UNION IN AUGUST 1975.

4. "OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM

US, HAS RAISED THE SLEPAK CASE ONCE AGAIN WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE RAISED THE CASE OF MR. SLEPAK'S WIFE AND SON WHO DESIRE TO EMIGRATE FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO THE UNITED STATES TO JOIN THE OTHER SON WHO IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO PRESS THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON THE EMIGRATION CASE OF IDA NUDEL. OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ALSO SENT OBSERVERS TO THE SLEPAK AND NUDEL TRIALS, BUT THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COURTROOMS, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE THE GALLERIES WERE FULL." VANCE

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